

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 21, 2008. Claims 28 to 37 are pending in the application, of which Claims 28 and 35 to 37 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7 and 25 to 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly not complying with the requirements of MPEP 2106.IV.B.1(a). Claims 1 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0085223 (Bigi). Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Claims 1 to 27 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, Claim 28 is directed to a printing system. The printing system includes an input unit adapted to input image data having first and second directions; and a control unit adapted to cause a first printer to print image data having one of the first and second directions. In one case, the image data being input has the first direction, and in another case, the image data being input has the second direction. In addition, the control unit is adapted to cause a second printer to print image data that has the same direction as the image data printed by the first printer.

Independent Claim 37 is directed to a printing device. The printing device includes an input unit adapted to input image data having first and second directions; a printer adapted to print the image data; and a control unit adapted to cause a first printer to print image data having one of the first and second directions. In one case, the image data being input has the first direction, and in another case, the image data being input has the second direction. In

addition, the control unit is adapted to cause a second printer to print image data that has the same direction as the image data printed by the first printer.

In other words, the input unit of the present invention can input an image in one of the two directions. The input unit includes a direction detection unit which can detect the direction of the input image. Moreover, the input unit can send the direction information as well as the image data to another printer on the network. Therefore, the control unit can cause the first printer to print the image in the first or the second direction, and additionally, cause the second printer to print the image in the same direction as the first printer. As a result, the present invention allows the second printer to perform print processing that is dependent upon the direction information detected by the first printer.

Applicant respectfully submits that AAPA and Bigi, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the system of Claim 28 or the device of Claim 37. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a control unit that is adapted to cause a second printer to print image data that has the same direction as the image data printed by the first printer.

In contrast to the present invention, AAPA discloses an image forming apparatus, such as a printer, that is connected to a network.. The image forming apparatus is capable of performing printing and scanning through the network. This allows an image to be scanned in one image forming apparatus, and to be printed on another image forming apparatus on the network. In addition, AAPA discloses a copying apparatus that can determine the direction of an original image.

Furthermore, Bigi discloses methods and apparatus for selecting staple positions for printed documents. In particular, Bigi discloses a system and method that allows a user to

select extended staple position options when printing documents. Additionally, the printer driver in Bigi can cause the printer to rotate the document in order to put staples on the selected positions of the document.

However, neither AAPA nor Bigi, neither alone nor in combination, disclose a control unit that is adapted to cause a second printer to print image data that has the same direction as the image data printed by the first printer.

In light of these deficiencies of AAPA and Bigi, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 28 and 37 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 35 and 36 are directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium storing a program, respectively, substantially in accordance with the printing system of Claim 28. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 35 and 36 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the requisite \$120.00 fee for a one-month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency in this fee, or to credit any overpayment therefor, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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